

YOUR WORKING CHECKLIST

M-1 vocational study: the program, school and immigration stages

How is M-1 vocational study different from F-1 academic study?

M-1 concerns vocational or other recognized nonacademic study; F-1 covers academic programs and language training. Both use school and immigration records, but the classifications are not interchangeable. A curriculum, I-20, visa and admission each answer a different part of the journey.

Check the boxes on screen or by hand. Use the notes area for records to find and questions to ask.

Your preparation checklist

- ☐ Explain the skills and credential the program is designed to provide.
- ☐ Identify the institution's relevant student document and contact.
- ☐ Preserve the actual schedule and any changes rather than estimating completion.
- ☐ Keep existing admission and agency decisions available for comparison.

Notes and questions to follow up

Source links and current instructions

Sources checked October 25, 2026. Follow current instructions at the linked institution.

USCIS: Changing to F or M student status: school, I-20 and approval

<https://www.uscis.gov/working-in-the-united-states/students-and-exchange-visitors/students-and-employment/changing-to-a-nonimmigrant-f-or-m-student-status>

U.S. Department of State: Student visa: school and category distinctions

<https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/study/student-visa.html>

DHS Study in the States: Maintaining student status

<https://studyinthestates.dhs.gov/students/maintaining-status>

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<https://immigrantinsider.com/immigration-paths/student/m1-vocational/>

General information

This free organizer is not a government form and does not submit an application, establish eligibility, preserve a deadline or replace individual legal advice. Government filing fees and professional services are separate.